Passages from the Holy Quran

4. Sura Al-Shura (42: 4-5)

Translation:

4. To Him belongs all that is in the heavens and on earth: and He is most high, most great.

5. The heavens are almost rent asunder from above them, and the angels celebrate the praises of their Lord, and pray for forgiveness for beings on earth: Behold! Verily Allah is He, the oft-forgiving, the most merciful. (42:4-5)

Main Theme:

- These two verses of Sura al-Shura revealed in Makkah shortly after Sura fussilat and thier theme is "Allah in Himself". According to Islamic Belief Allah's Essence is beyond Human perception so Allah introduced Himself through His attributes manifested in His Creations. This passage explains God's unity expressed by His Ownership, grandeur and authority.
- He enjoys unshared authority over entire universe as the Creator, the Owner, the Omnipotent Lord and the Master of the heavens and the Earth. God is the owner of everything because He created everything. The Quran states: "His are all things in the heaven and on the earth." (2:255).
- No one has share in the power, the sovereignty and the authority or rule of Allah. Everything is subject to His dominion and control. *"To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the Earth. (48:14)*
- It also mentions the effect of God's might on the heavens that hardly sustain this immense burden. Allah is Sublime and great to the highest degree so much so that highest heavens are almost ready to burst asunder by the glory of Allah and fear of His might but He has sustained everything in the Universe as He is the Sustainer, the Provider and the Ultimate cause of existence of everything.
- The passage also refers to the countless angels who are busy in the prayers and glorification of the Lord and also invoke His mercy and pardon for humans who tend to disobey their lord. It refer Muslims belief in Angel and Allah's attributes of the Merciful and the Forgiving.
- Humans are reliant on God's mercy as Allah is the Forgiving and the Merciful while Humans are an Erring creature who have weaknesses so they commit mistakes and indulge in sins. The Quran declares this weakness of humans as: "It is man that wrongs his own soul" (10:44). Allah forgives mistakes of human when they realize their mistakes and sins and ask repentance from Allah. Quran says' *"But seek the forgiveness of Allah; for Allah is the Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful".* (4:106)
- In-spite of Human's transgressions, arrogance and vanity, He goes on giving them respite so that they may reflect, realize their mistake and come to the right path. At other places in the Holy Quran, Allah says that: "*He is kind, and what He, out of His mercy, bestows on mankind, there is no one who can withhold it."* (35:2)

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Importance of the theme

- Theme of this message guides Muslims about two articles of faith: belief in Tawhid and belief in Angels. The passage tells Muslims about God's power, authority and glory in order to make them His obedient and true servants.
- The importance here is that God tells humankind of His power and control over all things so they should remember that they do not have any power in comparison hence be humble.
- By referring to the angels praising God and seeking forgiveness for humans, it tells them about God's mercy. Humans, because of free will, can commit sins but God is ready to forgive them. Belief in God's mercy and forgiveness prepares Muslims to reflect and repent over their misdeeds. The Quran re-assures Muslims by saying: "Despair not of the mercy of God; for God forgives all sins, for he is oft-forgiving, the Merciful'' (39:53). Thus passage urges Muslims that they must reflect on their sins and mistakes and always ask Allah's forgiveness and mercy.
- God is Merciful, even when Muslims have committed wrong actions, so Muslims have someone to turn to in times of need.
- As God is merciful to humankind, they in turn should be grateful and also try to be forgiving of others, even if they have been hurt or injured.
- Humans should not despair of Him or give up on His mercy – even if they have sinned, they should turn back to Him and He will forgive.
- The passage inspires Muslims to believe in Angels as a creation of Allah and assure that they are not the family of God because He is the Absolute the Unique, free from all defects like having family etc. It enables Muslims to abstain all kinds of Shirk and false notions and beliefs.
- The obedience of angels to God can encourage humans to be obedient to God too.
- The passage instigates a believer to realize the Ultimate power of the Omnipotent Lord and enables him to always seek His help and protection. He realizes that only Allah is the Provider and the Sustainer of this universe and nobody can benefit and harm a person without His will that's why a believer never hesitates to say the truth in any type of circumstances and situations.
- A believer realizes that only Allah is the Absolute, the Self-subsisting and Independent and realises his weaknesses and faults and never feels proud or arrogant of his worldly power and knowledge. A believe understands that Humans are vicegerents on Earth. They are given limited power, authority and knowledge to test their behaviors so they are supposed to use their knowledge and power for the well-being of humanity and other creations of Allah.

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